



# 2016 KIDS COUNT Data Book

National trends and state comparisons

What Would It Take, Alabama?



#### About Us

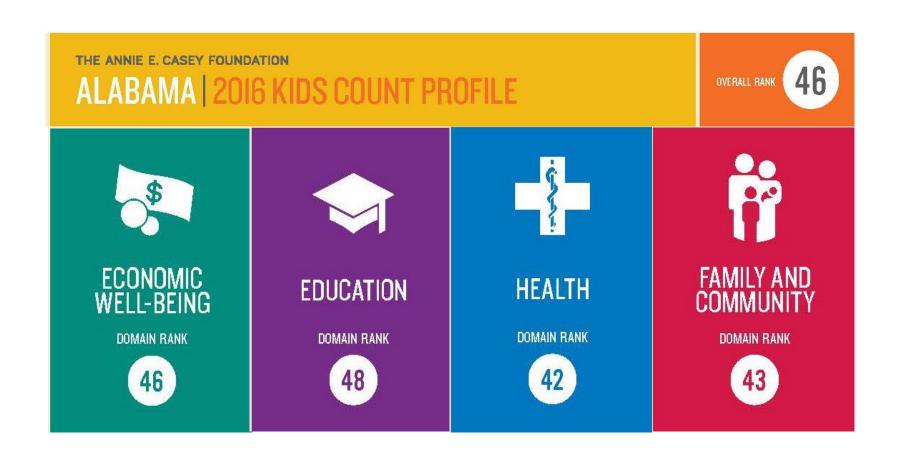
#### ABOUT VOICES FOR ALABAMA'S CHILDREN AND ALABAMA KIDS COUNT

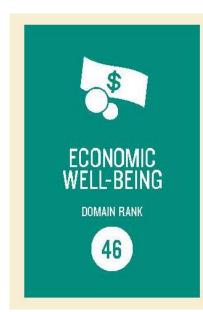
VOICES for Alabama's Children, founded in 1992, is a 501(c)(3) statewide nonpartisan organization whose mission is to ensure the well-being of Alabama's children through research, public awareness, and advocacy.

Alabama Kids Count is a project of VOICES for Alabama's Children and the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Our annual research publication, the Alabama Kids Count Data Book, is the most trusted source of research on child well-being for all 67 counties in Alabama.

For more than 20 years, the Data Book has served as both a benchmark and roadmap for how children are faring and is used to raise visibility of children's issues, identify areas of need, set priorities in child well-being, and inform decision-making at the state and local levels.







Children in poverty

2014

28%

303,000 CHILDREN

WORSENED

2008 22%

Children whose parents lack secure employment

2014

34%

372,000 CHILDREN

WORSENED

2008 30%

Children living in households with a high housing cost burden

2014

31%

**341,000 CHILDREN** 

WORSENED

2008 30%

Teens not in school and not working

2014

10%

25,000 TEENS

UNCHANGED

2008 10%



Young children not in school

2012-14

58%

72,000 CHILDREN

WORSENED

2007-09 56%

Fourth graders not proficient in reading

2015

71%

N.A.

UNCHANGED

2007

71%

Eighth graders not proficient in math

2015

83%

N.A.

WORSENED

2007 82%

High school students not graduating on time

2012/13

26%

N.A.

IMPROVED

2007/08 31%



Low-birthweight babies

2014

10.1%

5,989 BABIES

**IMPROVED** 

2008

10.6%

Children without health insurance

2014

4%

42,000 CHILDREN

**IMPROVED** 

2008

8%

Child and teen deaths per 100,000

2014

35

410 DEATHS

**IMPROVED** 

40

2008

Teens who abuse alcohol or drugs

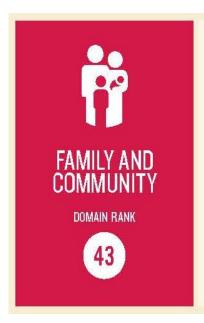
2013-14

5%

**20,000 TEENS** 

**IMPROVED** 

2007-08 7% ALABAMA | 2016 KIDS COUNT PROFILE



Children in single-parent families

2014

40%

412,000 CHILDREN

WORSENED

2008 36% Children in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma

2014

14%

**153,000 CHILDREN** 

**IMPROVED** 

16% 2008

Children living in high-poverty areas

2010-14

17%

192,000 CHILDREN

2006-10 13%

Teen births per 1,000

2014

32

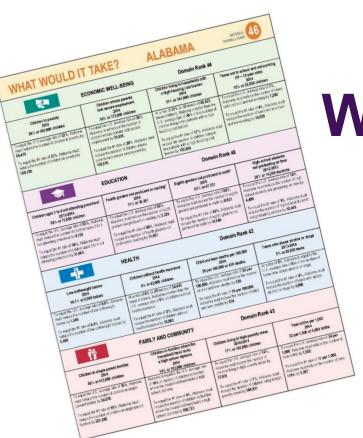
**5,009** BIRTHS

**IMPROVED** 

2008

51





What Would It Take, Alabama?





*	ECONOMIC WELL-BEING	Domain Rank 46	3
Children in poverty 2014 28% or 303,000 children	Children whose parents lack secure employment 2014 34% or 372,000 children	Children living in households with a high housing cost burden 2014 31% or 341,000 children	Teens not in school and not working (16 – 19 year olds) 2014 10% or 25,000 children
To equal the U. S average rate of 22%, Alabama must reduce the number of children in poverty by 59,478.  To equal the #1 rate of 13%, Alabama must reduce the number of children in poverty by 159,100.	To equal the U.S. average rate of 30%, Alabama must reduce the number of children whose parents lack secure employment by 39,924.  To equal the #1 rate of 20%, Alabama must reduce the number of children whose parents lack secure employment by 150,616.	At a rate of 31% (a difference of 46,422 fewer children), Alabama is better than the U.S. average rate of 35% in the number of children living in households with a high housing cost burden.  To equal the #1 rate of 17%, Alabama must reduce the number of children living in households with a high housing cost burden by 152,824.	To equal the U.S. average rate of <b>7</b> %, Alabama must reduce the number of teens not in school and not working by <b>7,200</b> .  To equal the #1 rate of <b>4</b> %, Alabama must reduce the number of teens not in school and not working by <b>14,829</b> .



EDUCATION		Domain Rank 48	
Young children not in school 2012-2014 58% or 72,000 children	Fourth graders not proficient in reading* 2015 71% or 36,061	Eighth graders not proficient in math* 2015 83% or 47,701	High school students not graduating on time 2012-2013 28% or 14,299 students
To equal the U.S. average rate of <b>53</b> %, Alabama must reduce the number of children ages 3 to 4 not attending preschool by <b>9,122</b> .  To equal the #1 rate of <b>34</b> %, Alabama must reduce the number of children ages 3 to 4 not attending preschool by <b>31,663</b> .	To equal the U.S. average rate of 65%, Alabama must reduce the number of fourth graders not proficient in reading by 3,329.  To equal the #1 rate of 50%, Alabama must reduce the number of fourth graders not proficient in reading by 11,651.	To equal the U.S. average rate of 68%, Alabama must reduce the number of eighth graders not proficient in math by 8,621.  To equal the #1 rate of 49%, Alabama must reduce the number of eighth graders not proficient in math by 19,540.	To equal the U.S. average rate of 18%, Alabama must reduce the number of high school students not graduating on time by 4,400.  To equal the #1 rate of 9%, Alabama must reduce the number of high school students not graduating on time by 10,449.

WHAT WOULD IT TAKE?

**ALABAMA** 



- G	HEALTH	Domain Rank 42	
Low-birthweight babies 2014 10.1% or 5,989 babies	Children without health insurance 2014 4% or 42,000 children	Child and teen deaths per 100,000 2014 35 per 100,000 or 410 deaths	Teens who abuse alcohol or drugs 2013-2014 5% or 20,000 teens
To equal the U.S. average rate of <b>8.0</b> %, Alabama must reduce the number of low-birthweight babies by <b>1,245</b> .  To equal the #1 rate of <b>5.9</b> %, Alabama must reduce the number of low-birthweight babies by <b>2,490</b> .	At a rate of 4% (a difference of 24,415 fewer children), Alabama is better than the U.S. average rate of 6% of children without health insurance.  To equal the #1 rate of 2%, Alabama must reduce the number of children without health insurance by 19,862.	To equal the U.S. average rate of 24 per 100,000, Alabama must reduce the number of child and teen deaths by 128.  To equal the #1 rate of 15 per 100,000, Alabama must reduce the number of child and teen deaths by 234.	At a rate of <b>5</b> %, Alabama is equal to the U.S. average rate of <b>5</b> % in the number of teens who abuse alcohol or drugs.  To equal the #1 rate of <b>4</b> %, Alabama must reduce the number of teens who abuse alcohol or drugs by <b>4,000</b> .

WHAT WOULD IT TAKE?

**ALABAMA** 



Ť	FAMILY AND COMMUNITY	Domain Rank 43	
Children in single-parent families 2014 40% or 412,000 children	Children in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma 2014 14% or 153,000 children	Children living in high-poverty areas 2010-2014 17% or 192,000 children	Teen births per 1,000 2014 32 per 1,000 or 5,009 births
To equal the U.S. average rate of <b>35</b> %, Alabama must reduce the number of children in single-parent families by <b>24,578</b> .  To equal the #1 rate of <b>19</b> %, Alabama must reduce the number of children in single-parent families by <b>201,685</b> .	Alabama is equal to the U.S. average rate of 14% in number of children in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma.  To equal the #1 rate of 4%, Alabama must reduce the number of children in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma by 108,723.	To equal the U.S. average rate of 14%, Alabama must reduce the number of children living in high-poverty areas by 37,031.  To equal the #1 rate of 1%, Alabama must reduce the number of children living in high- poverty areas by 180,931.	To equal the U.S. average rate of 24 per 1,000, Alabama must reduce the number of teen births by 1,252.  To equal the #1 rate of 11 per 1,000, Alabama must reduce the number of teen births by 3,287.



## **Policy Priorities**

#### **2016 Legislative Priorities**

- ✓ Increase Healthy Food Access for Children & Families
- ✓ Institute Uniform Regulation and Inspection of Child Care
- ✓ Promote Healthy Early Care & Education (ECE) Settings
- ✓ Expand Funding for Alabama's First Class Pre-K Program
- Protecting Adequate State Funding for Child-Serving Programs & Services



### Past Policy Wins

- ✓ AllKids
- ✓ Statewide Child Death Review Process
- ✓ Graduated Teen Driver's Licensing Law
- Criminal Background Checks
- ✓ Foster Parents' Bill of Rights
- ✓ Child Passenger Safety
- ✓ Subsidized Child Care
- ✓ Revised Juvenile Code
- ✓ Children First Trust Fund
- ✓ Alabama's First Class Pre-K for 4 year olds



#### Past Public Awareness

- ✓ Importance of brain development during first five years of life
- ✓ Dangers of adult seat belts for children
- ✓ Need for teen drivers to gain experience in stages
- ✓ Benefits of high-quality pre-K
- ✓ Dangers of second hand smoke
- ✓ Impact of summer learning loss
- ✓ Importance of daily school attendance
- ✓ Importance of reading on grade level
- ✓ Alabama's dual system of child care



- Join VOICES CAN!
- Become a Member
- Get Social



#### Let us raise our children so

they do not have to recover

from childhood.



# alavoices.org

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